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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,714	02/25/2002	Alexander Jan Carel De Vries	105531.01	9142

7590 08/12/2002

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRINH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3726	

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

S.M.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/080,714	Applicant(s) Carel Vries De et al.
	Examiner Trinh Nguyen	Art Unit 3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on *the Preliminary Amend. dated 2/25/02*
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- Disposition of Claims**
- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some* c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) *Attached*
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) *Repos Note*
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/486,210, filed on 3/23/00.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Patent

Abstract of Japan Publication Number 04321816 to Mayumi Toru (hereinafter referred to as Toru) in view of Miyasaka (US 5,592,840).

Toru discloses a method of manufacturing a roller element bearing wherein the method comprising forming recesses on the surfaces of the roller element. Note that the recesses are provided with lubricant. Toru discloses all of the limitations as claimed except for forming the recesses by shot peening.

Miyasaka teaches a method of improving abrasion resistance of a metal-product such as a machine part (note that Toru's roller element bearing can be considered as a machine part) by

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shot-peening. Note that Miyasaka's shot-peening method uses glass beads. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used Miyasaka's shot-peening method to form recesses in the surfaces of Toru's roller element, as suggested by Miyasaka, so as lubricating oil can be retained in the recesses more efficiently.

Regarding claim 2, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have set the diameter at a specific value as claimed, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

Regarding claim 3, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have set the average angle at a specific value as claimed, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

Regarding claim 5, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have set the diameter of the glass bead at a specific value as claimed, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and are cited on form PTO-892 encloses herewith.

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Official documents related to the instant application may be submitted to the Technology Center 3700 mail center by facsimile at (703) 305-3579/3580.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trinh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9082.



DAVID P. BRYANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

ttn 17N

July 29, 2002